

Minutes of Special Meeting (Commission Interviews) of October 21, 2013

CALL TO ORDER 7:15 P.M.

ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Lieberman, Braunstein, Wozniak

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Feierbach, Warden

Staff Present: City Clerk Cook

Interview Candidates for City Commissions

Davina Hurt (Planning)

She stated that she chose Belmont for its small-town atmosphere. She noted that she has gotten involved in the community through her participation in the High Speed Rail ad hoc committee and the Villages committee. She would like to enhance the community and build roots. She pointed out she was an attorney before she became a stay-at-home mother. She described her research skills through her experience in reviewing EIR's (Environmental Impact Reports), and she also has experience with landlord/tenant relations. She enjoys interacting with others. She pointed out that downtown development is important and she supports a marketplace concept. She commented that she is impressed by the work of the commission and noted that each member brings a different perspective and there are often majority/minority views. She talked about the planning process through her personal experience with a remodel, and she stated that homeowners need to know what to expect. She pointed out that she had a positive experience due to the hiring of an expert to help. She noted that not all owners have the same resources. There is a need to take away the myths and fears and understand the subjective findings.

She described her experience on land-use matters in her capacity of an attorney on a case involving the transit of large trucks through residential neighborhoods. She has also been involved in neighbor-to-neighbor matters. She would like to maintain views and open space. She stated she does not want to over-regulate. Discussion ensued regarding interaction between the Planning Commission and the City Council.

Douglas Kim (Planning)

He stated that he grew up on the Peninsula and moved back after living in Southern California for 30 years. He has a background in land use planning and now works for Sam Trans. He served on the Planning Commission in Redondo Beach, including as chair, and ran efficient meetings. He expressed a desire to look out for the interests of neighborhoods. He described the comparisons between Redondo Beach and Belmont, as well as his experience with protecting the interests of the City of Redondo Beach due to proposed development. He has attended the Ralston Avenue corridor study meetings. He acknowledged his short tenure in Belmont. He understands land-use planning, is a quick study, has the ability to analyze, has no pre-conceived biases, is a good listener, and

developed a good relationship with other commissioners. He is willing to talk to developers, and has an open mind. Regarding downtown development, he noted that if the community supports mixed use, he would want to make sure everyone understands the compatibility of uses, especially in the transitional areas adjacent to commercial zones. He wants to help the City Council make good land use decisions and avoid unintended consequences.

Rachel Hardyck (Planning)

She stated that the Planning Commission could benefit from fresh perspective. She wants to preserve the uniqueness of homes in Belmont and wants to be more active in the community. She expressed a desire for a family-friendly community, and would like more in the downtown. She stated the downtown needs to be more pedestrian friendly and include a play area. She described her work in the real estate industry and she helps clients think outside the box. She stated that prior to getting involved in real estate, she worked for builders, so she understands both sides of issues. She stated that site visits are important.

Steve Hayes (Finance)

He stated that he is retired and has the time to commit. He has financial, budgeting and planning experience and would like to improve the financial position of the City. He noted that he understands how to read the budget but would like to improve and simplify budget reporting for the general public. He pointed out that the City has done a good job of containing costs and he would like to see long-term financial goals. He suggested that more shared services with other cities in other departments besides fire could be accomplished without Belmont losing its identity. He noted that this could free up money to address other issues such as streets. He described the Finance Commission meetings as an observer, especially during budget discussions. He does not want to be a rubber stamp. He is willing to perform budget review and work on special projects. He has the expertise to get more involved. Discussion ensued regarding pension costs. He pointed out that people need to understand them more and the City needs to look for other ways to save personnel costs, especially through attrition. Discussion ensued regarding the relationship between the Finance Commission and the City Council, as well as the meeting schedule of the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 8:30 p.m.

Terri Cook, CMC
City Clerk